

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/972,947

Examiner

Anh-Vu H. Ly

Applicant(s)

SUZUKI ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed April 18, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-19 and 22-30 renumbered as 1-28 respectively.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Thomas W. Perkins (Registration No. 33,027) on April 27, 2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

In The Claims

Claim 2, in line 18, replace "bus system" with --bus systems--.

Claim 16, in lines 1-2, replace "for interconnecting" with --to interconnect-- and in line 15, replace "said at least one bus bridge" with --said bus bridge--.

Claim 17, in line 16, replace "bus system" with --bus systems--.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-19 and 22-30 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art does not teach or fairly suggest translating a channel identifier for a multicast packet for one of the bus systems to a channel identifier for the multicast packet for another of the bus systems based on the mapping table in a packet switching unit of at least one bus bridge; wherein, the mapping table mapping multicast addresses and channels assigned for

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multicast transmission in the respective bus systems, as specified in independent claims 1, 2, 16, and 17.

The prior art does not teach or fairly suggest the first bus bridge acquires an interconnection channel if there is no node in the intermediate bus system participating in the multicast group and if two of the messages having an identical multicast address are received, one from the first bus system and the other from the second bus system, broadcasts a message pertaining to the interconnection channel and the multicast group and connects a first end of the interconnection channel to the channel acquired for the first bus system, as specified in independent claims 3 and 18.

The prior art does not teach or fairly suggest at least one node on each of the bus systems when operating as a receive-only node acquires a second channel if the first message is received when the bus system of the receive-only node has no node responsible for channel acquisition, and broadcasts a second message pertaining to the second channel and the multicast group, as specified in independent claims 4 and 19.

The prior art does not teach or fairly suggest wherein the first node broadcasting a first message pertaining to the acquired first channel and first multicast address; the second node broadcasting a second message pertaining to the acquired second channel and second multicast address; and establishing a connection between two channels respectively identified by the received messages if the multicast addresses contained therein are equal to each other, as specified in independent claims 7, 9, 22, and 24.

The prior art does not teach or fairly suggest receiving, at the first bus bridge, the first and second messages and acquiring a third channel for transfer of packets on the intermediate

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bus system if the received first and second messages indicate that the multicast addresses contained therein are equal to each other, establishing a connection between a channel identified by the received first message and the acquired third channel, and broadcasting from the first bus bridge a third message pertaining to the third channel; receiving, at the second bus bridge, the first and second messages from the first and second nodes and subsequently receiving third message from the first bus bridge if the received first and second messages indicate that the multicast addresses contained therein are equal to each other, and establishing a connection between two channels respectively identified by the second and third messages, as specified in independent claims 8 and 23.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anh-Vu H. Ly whose telephone number is 571-272-3175. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:00am - 4:00pm.

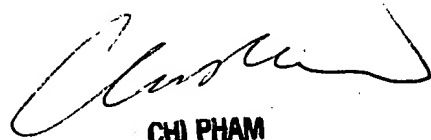
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chi Pham can be reached on 571-272-3179. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications

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may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

avl


CHI PHAM
EXAMINER IN CHARGE
4/28/12